

REMARKS

We have amended independent claims 1 and 15 to recite that the recording format of the disc positional information in the first disc recording medium differs from that in the second disc recording medium.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Hwang et al. (US 5,825,726) further considered with Kamatani (US 5,587,971) and Mashimo (US 6,954,709).

The Examiner has acknowledged that Hwang et al. does not disclose the plurality of address decoders recited in claims 1 and 15. We agree.

Mashimo discloses a signal processing circuits including an encode/decode circuit 34(44) for extracting address information and an encode/decode circuit 40 for performing error correction processes. The encode/decode circuit 34 merely generates address information representing a track position on the disk (see col. 5, lines 27 to 30 of Mashimo). The decode/encode circuit 40 merely performs error correction processes based on error correcting codes (see col. 5, lines 32 to 38 of Mashimo). Thus, the decode/encode circuit 40 of Mashimo is not an address decoder as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. For at least this reason, Mashimo, like Hwang, fails to show the plurality of address decoders recited in claims 1 and 15.

Kamatani discloses an optical disc reading apparatus including a decoder 36 for receiving signals output from an RF amplifier 22 and reproduction information and an address decoder 28 for generating address information(see col. 3, lines 5 to 31 of Kamatani). Thus, the decoder 36 of Kamatani differs from the address decoder of claims 1 and 15.

Because Hwang et al., Mashimo, and Kamatani fail to show the plurality of address decoders as recited in claims 1 and 15, it is clear that the selector recited in claims 1 and 15, which selects one of the plurality of address decoders in accordance with

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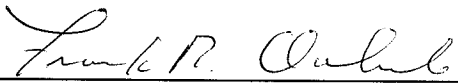
the type of the disc recording medium, is not shown in these references. For at least this reason, claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Hwang et al in view of Mashimo and Kamatani.

We submit that because claims 2-14 depend from claim 1, these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reason that claim 1 is patentable.

The Request for Continued Examination fee in the amount of \$790.00 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-4189, referencing Attorney Docket No. 35901-075001.

Respectfully submitted,

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